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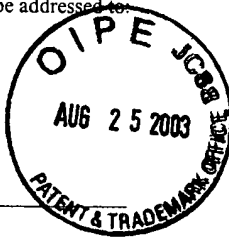
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On August 21, 2003

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Mark T. Davis

Mark T. Davis



PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 021866-001110US
Client Reference No.: 021866-001110

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

JOSE L. CONTIN and NELI
ULEA

Application No.: 10/624,083

Filed: July 21, 2003

For: HIGH-VACUUM VALVE WITH
RETRACTABLE VALVE PLATE TO
ELIMINATE ABRASION

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and
§1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The references cited on attached form PTO/SB/08A are being called to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the references are enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no

representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement.

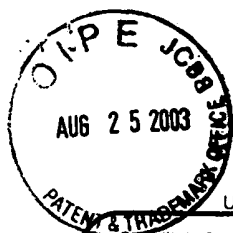
However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Page **1** of **1**

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/624,083
Filing Date	July 21, 2003
First Named Inventor	Contin, Jose L., et. al.
Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	021866-001110US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	US-4,681,329	07-21-1987	Contin	
	AB	US-4,718,637	01-12-1988	Contin	
	AC	US-5,116,023	05-26-1992	Contin	
	AD	US-5,577,707	11-26-1996	Brida	
	AE	US-appln. 2002/0056819 A1	05-16-2002	Contin et al.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹ EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

² Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ³ Kind Codes of U.S. Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ⁴ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁵ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁶ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁷ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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